

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-processing method designed for object detection in a moving image, comprising

detecting an object by matching a template image with an image subject to object detection; and

determining an amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on a motion vector of an encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection.

2. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein an object in an intra-coded picture (I-picture) is detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection,

wherein an object in a forward predictive picture (P-picture) is detected by said determining the amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on the motion vector of the encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection, and

wherein an object in a bi-directionally predictive picture (B-picture) is detected by said determining the amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on the motion vector of the encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection.

3. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

counting number of frames in which an object is tracked by said determining the amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on the motion vector of the encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image

subject to object detection; and

comparing a reference frame number with the number of the frames counted by said counting the number of the frames in which the object is tracked,

wherein, when the number of the frames counted by said counting the number of the frames in which the object is tracked is greater than the reference frame number, then object detection is performed by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection.

4. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection comprises:

comparing a reference value with a similarity value between the template image and the image subject to object detection; and

employing results from detection of an object in at least one frame behind when the similarity value is smaller than the reference value, in order to practice object detection in an intra-coded picture (I-picture).

5. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

decoding an encoded moving image, thereby generating the image subject to object detection;

editing the image subject to object detection as a first image; and

composing the edited first image with a second image, thereby producing a composed image,

wherein said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection includes providing information on a position of a detected object,

wherein said determining the amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on the motion vector of the encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the

template image with the image subject to object detection includes providing information on a position of a displaced object, and

wherein said editing the image subject to object detection as the first image includes editing the first image in accordance with the information on the position.

6. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a scene change in the image subject to object detection,

wherein an object in the image subject to object detection in which a scene has been changed is detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection.

7. An image-processing method comprising:

detecting any object in a moving image;

editing said moving image in accordance with information on a position of said detected object;

composing the edited moving image with another moving image; and

encoding and compressing the composed image.

8. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein the object to be detected is a human face.

9. The image-processing method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection and said determining the amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on the motion vector of the encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said detecting the object by matching the template image with the image subject to object detection, can be switched over therebetween.

10. An image processor designed for object detection in a moving image, comprising:

an object-detecting unit operable to detect an object by matching a template image with an image subject to object detection; and

an displacement amount-detecting unit operable to determine an amount of displacement of the detected object in accordance with information on a motion vector of an encoded moving image, the detected object being the object detected by said object-detecting unit.